

B-3526 - B-3535

c. 1837-1880's

223 - 201 E. Cross St. (South side)/ 1115 Durst Alley (East side)

Baltimore, Md.

Private access

The south side of the 200 block of E. Cross St. is improved with a variety of house types ranging in date from the late 1830's to the 1870's and 1880's. 221-223 E. Cross St. is a pair of two story plus attic brick houses built in the early 1850's. To the west, at 219 E. Cross St. there is a two story, two bay wide gable-roofed brick house built in the 1860's; at 217 E. Cross St. there is a three story, two bay wide brick house with shed roof and bracketed cornice representing a post-Civil War remodeling of an 1855 house; at 215 E. Cross St. there is a late Victorian two story, three bay wide brick house with shed roof and Italianate bracketed cornice representing either an 1880's remodeling or replacement of the original 1850's house on the site; and at 213 E. Cross St. there is a two story, two bay wide gable-roofed brick house similar to that at 219 E. Cross St. and also built in the 1860's. Across Durst Alley to the west there is a three story, two bay wide gable-roofed brick house at 211 E. Cross St.; a pair of two story, two bay wide gable-roofed houses at 207-209 E. Cross St. built in the 1850's; a three story, two bay wide brick house with shed roof and bracketed cornice, now covered with aluminum siding, at 205 E. Cross St., which probably represents an enlargement of an 1840's or 1850's house; and finally a pair of two story, two bay wide late Federal style houses (though currently without dormer windows) built in the late 1830's by the Dempster family at 201-203 E. Cross St. Only one house of an original row of ten two story, two bay wide brick houses with shed roofs built along the east side of Durst Alley in the 1850's survives at 1115 Durst Alley. These houses were probably built by William Webb, the builder of the row of two story plus attic houses on the front portions of the lots at 1110-1124 Battery Ave.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

215 E. Cross St.

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☒ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This two story, three bay brick house with shed roof and bracketed cornice represents either an enlargement or replacement of the two story gable roofed house that was built on this site in the 1850's. The house has been covered with formstone.

The house is two stories in height, 14' wide, and occupies a lot 66' deep. The house is two rooms deep and there is a two story high, one bay deep frame addition. The house is constructed in running bond but the facade has been covered with formstone. The shed roof is capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a deeply projecting crown molding set above panels decorated with scroll-sawed motifs and applied medallions. Four grooved brackets support the cornice and at one time connected it to a lower molding strip which is now missing. There is a single chimney located along both the front and rear sections of the roof on the west side of the house.

Although the original treatment of the door and window lintels and sills has been hidden by the formstone covering, it is apparent that the openings had segmentally arched brick lintels with scroll-sawed tympanums. The sills are currently brick header sills but these could be contemporary with the formstone covering. All of the window openings are filled with 1/1 double hung sash. A modern flush door is set beneath a single light transom filled with a piece of stained glass. The house sits on a fairly low basement, the entrance being reached by three brick steps. Two square basement openings are located beneath the first floor windows.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

B-3529

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1849-58 (orig.)/enl.1880's BUILDER/ARCHITECT George Presstman

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The house as it now stands is typical of the type of two story, Victorian style house built in this section of Federal Hill in the 1870's and 1880's to accomodate the rapidly growing number of workers employed in the nearby shipyards, packing plants, and factories located along the waterfront east of Covington St. (See under 1001-1021 Riverside Ave. for further details.) There seems to have been an earlier, gable-roofed house on this site, however, when it was sold by Presstman in 1868 for \$750 to Gustav Frauenhof, a tobacconist who lived here in the late 1860's and early 1870's.<sup>1</sup> Presstman, a Baltimore businessman, had owned this entire block of Cross St. (between Durst Alley and Battery Ave.) since 1849, the eastern parcels of which he leased unimproved.

<sup>1</sup> Baltimore City Land Records, Liber AWB 420, Folio 69; GR 362, Folio 325; Baltimore City Directory, 1849-50, 1870

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 14' x 66'

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. & Eccles

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5/79

TELEPHONE

1745 Circle Rd.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

RuxtonMaryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

E. CROSS

B-3624

B-3529 ST.

ST.

WILLIAM

E. WEST

DURST

ST.

BATTERY

AVE.

ST

201	203	202	207	209	211
17	17	15	16	10	12
33	32	31	30	29	28
35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46
47	48	49	50	51	52/53

219	218	217	216	215	214
14	13	12	11	10	9
28	27	26	25	24	23
22	21	20	19	18	17
16	15	14	13	12	11
10	9	8	7	6	5
4	3	2	1	0	0

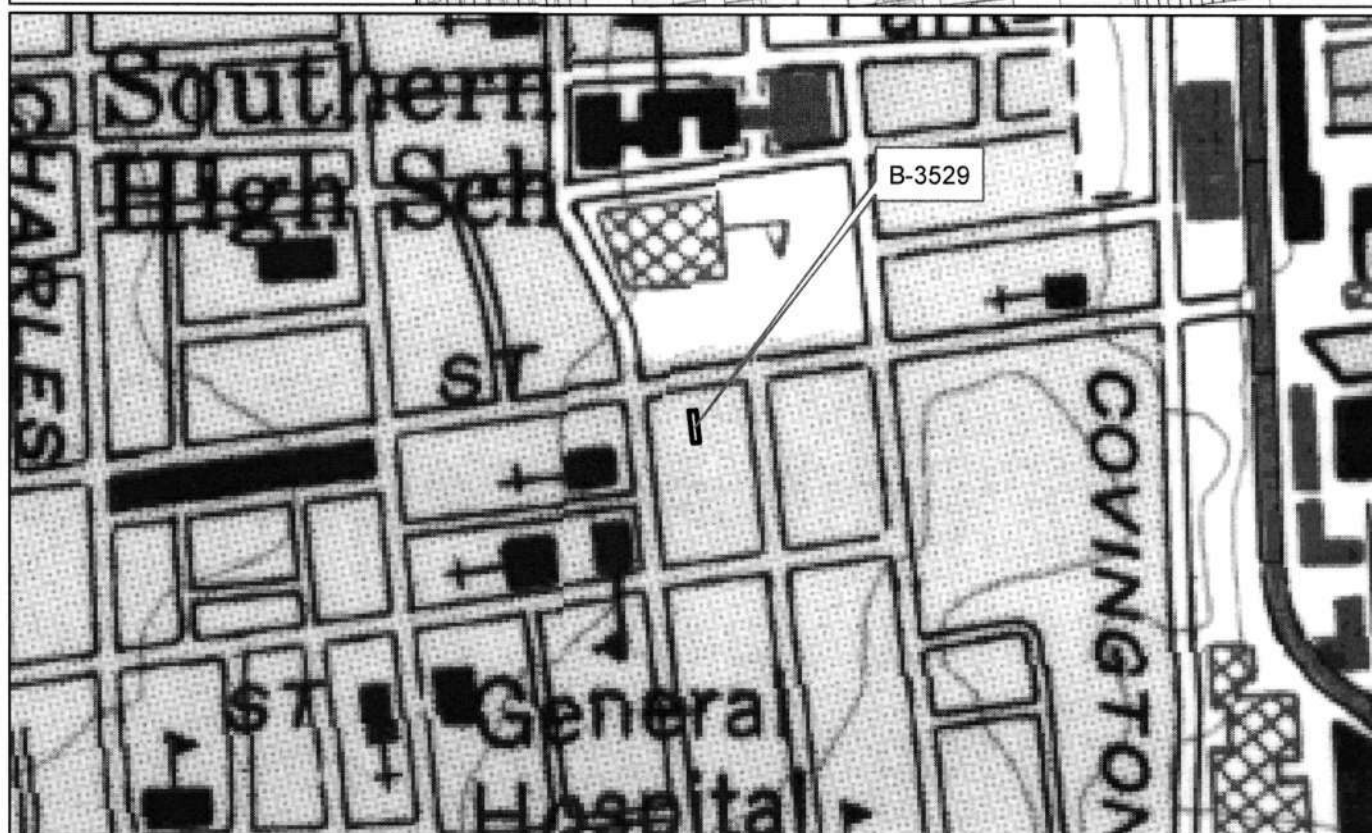
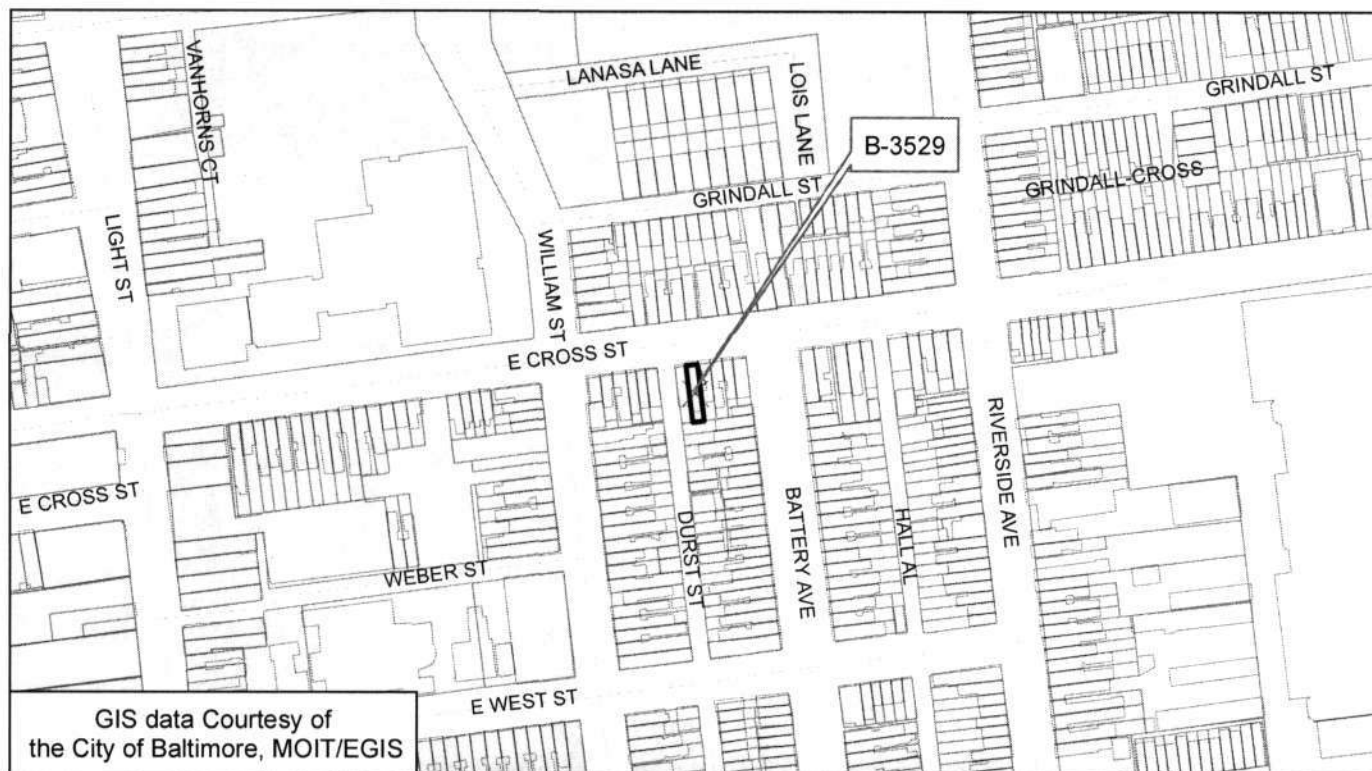
NOTICE

DEPART

RIUREA



B-3529  
215 E. Cross Street  
Block 0952 Lot 027  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.







B-3529

215 E. Cross St.

M.E.H.

5/79

North elevation